

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 INT-08 GSA-02

COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 STR-08 DRC-01 /172 W

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R 260850Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 220

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMMBASSY CONAKRY 23

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2537

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EMIN, ETRD

SUBJECT: MEETING OF BAUXITE PRODUCING COUNTRIES

REF: A) TOKYO 1397 B) CANBERRA 0589

SUMMARY: FONOFF UNDERTANDS PROPOSED PRODUCERS' MEETING
WILL ADDRESS PROBLEMS OF PRICE, PRODUCTION, AND TECHNICAL
AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE. NOTING THAT AVAILABILITY OF
SUBSTITUTES FOR BAUXITE WOULD LESSEN EFFECTIVNESS OF
OF PRODUCERS GROUP, FONOFF DOUBTS THEY WILLING RISK LOSS OF
TRADITIONAL MARKETS. FONOFF HOPING AUSTRALIANS AND BAUXITE
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QTE MAJORS UNQTE WILL EXERT MODERATING INFLUENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON FEB. 25 EMBOFF AGAIN QUERINE NAKANO OF INTER-NATIONAL RESOURCES DIVISION, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU, FONOFF, RE BAUXITE PRODUCERS' MEETING. NAKANO SAID THAT SINCE PREVIOUS CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF (REF A) FONOFF HAD RECEIVED INFO FROM GOJ EMBASSY CANBERRA CONCERNING MEETING. GIST OF INFO SIMILAR TO THAT REPORTED REF B. ADDITIONALLY, SAID NAKANO, GOA SOURCE HAD INDICATED CONAKRY MEETING WOULD ADDRESS PROBLEMS OF PRICES, PRODUCTION, AND TECHNICAL AND INFORMATION EXCHANGES RE BAUXITE. ACCORDING GOA SOURCE, MAIN POINT TO BE DISCUSSED AT MEETING WOULD BE PRICE PROBLEM.

2. IN FONOFF VIEW, SAID NAKANO, AVAILABILITY OF SUBSTITUTES FOR BAUXITE WOULD LESSEN EFFECTIVENESS OF PRODUCERS' GROUP. ADDITIONALLY, FONOFF DOUBTS THAT PRODUCERS WILLING RISK LOSS OF TRADITIONAL MARKETS FOR THEIR BAUXITE IN VIEW DEPENDENCE THEIR ECONOMIES ON EARNINGS FROM THESE MARKETS. HOWEVER, CAUSE FOR GREATER CONCERN WOULD BE PARTICIPATION IN PRODUCERS' GROUP BY MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA. SHOULD THESE TWO COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE, 98PERCENT OF BAUXITE PRODUCTION WOULD COME FROM PRODUCERS' GROUP MEMBERS, AND PRICES WOULD VERY LIKELY RISE.

3. FONOFF HOPING, SAID NAKANO, THAT AUSTRALIANS WOULD EXERT MODERATING INFLUENCE ON OTHER PRODUCERS. FONOFF ALSO HOPING BAUXITE QTE MAJORS UNQTE (WHICH CONTROL 66 PERCENT OF BAUXITE PRODUCTION) WILL EXERT MODERATING INFLUENCE ON POSSIBLE PRICE RISES.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BAUXITE, EXPORTERS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO02537
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974027/aaaaagrl.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) TOKYO 1397 B) CANBERRA 0589
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <16 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING OF BAUXITE PRODUCING COUNTRIES
TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005